

U.S. Serial No. 09/821,687

Attorney Docket No. 081356-0162

**REMARKS**

As a follow-up to the response filed September 9, 2003, Applicants respectfully submit that the alleged defect with respect to sequence identifiers in Figure 2, mentioned by the Examiner in her May 7<sup>th</sup> Office Action (at page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph), had been corrected by way of the Amendment filed on July 23, 2002.

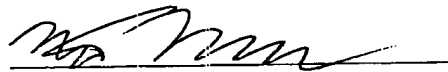
However, Applicants have further amended the specification at page 4, lines 15-16, to further clarify and provide appropriate sequence identifiers to the three amino acid sequences disclosed in Figure 2.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date September 10, 2003



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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.